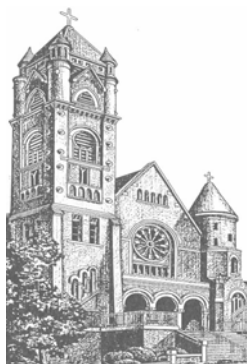


July-August 2006

The Evangel



St. Mark's Lutheran Church • San Francisco

In the heart of the city for ministry to the world

Reflection from Pastor Ekdale

Several months ago I was asked to serve on Mayor Newsom's **Universal Healthcare Council**. Before I accepted, I asked the church council what they thought about this opportunity. Everyone enthusiastically agreed and so I responded "Yes" to the invitation.

Why? Because as people of faith, we take very seriously our relationship with God – and if we take this relationship seriously – we take seriously the words from the prophet Micah, *"What does the Lord require of you – but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God."* I said "Yes" because it is impossible to separate our own relationship to God from God's purposes of justice in our world. Serving on the Universal Healthcare Council is one way of living out the command to do justice.

82,000 San Franciscans between the ages of 18 – 65 are uninsured. Of those, 46,000 are employed and 38,000 work more than 20 hours per work. These are our neighbors, our parishioners, and the person we see in the grocery store or at the library. These are our brothers and sisters – over half of them working – many of them younger adults. **Of the 82,000 uninsured, 49,000 are between the ages of 25 and 39.**

There are various reasons why they lack health insurance: the most common reason cited by workers is that their employer does not offer health benefits or that they are not eligible for coverage. Those who decline to accept coverage, cite the high cost of their contribution for that

coverage as the reason for declining. The **Healthcare Access Program** will provide access to healthcare services at an affordable cost for those individuals who do not qualify for other subsidized programs.

We know that **the work of justice takes time** and is not easy. We know there are no quick fixes in addressing the deficiencies of the healthcare system. However, we are called to engage and participate in acts of justice and mercy when and where we can. The opportunity is before us – before the Bay Area Organizing Committee (of which St. Mark's is an active member) who cares about these and other critical issues.

I've learned that the issue of providing healthcare access to these 82,000 San Franciscans is a complex, multi-faceted, challenging issue. The Mayor created the Universal Healthcare Council to bring all the players (business, labor, healthcare professionals and community leaders) to the table. On June 8, **St. Mark's and BAOC held a forum** on healthcare access to educate ourselves on these issues. We heard compelling stories from parishioners of St. Mark's of their experiences with the healthcare system. It was very moving to hear these stories.

The Healthcare Council has met for four months and will present our recommendations to the Mayor at the end of June. **Key legislation** regarding healthcare access will come before the Board of Supervisors in the upcoming weeks. I'll keep the congregation posted on these developments.

As pastors and people of faith, **we go where the needs of the people are** - to proclaim and help usher in God's vision of hope, justice and wholeness. Thank you for journeying together as we seek to do God's work in the world.

In this Issue

News & Events

p. 2-3

Ministries

Seniors

p. 4

Youth

p. 5

Young Adults

p. 6

Social Ministries

p. 7



Church cross on the East tower

WELCOME BACK

Pastor Noel and Connie Ilagan!

July 17 – 23

Pastor Noel served for a year as St. Mark’s Pastoral Associate prior to his and Connie’s move to Cambodia. Since their time with us, Pastor Noel was ordained by the Lutheran Church in the Philippines at his home congregation in Manila. Pastor Noel now serves with International Cooperation Cambodia and lives in Phnom Penh along with Connie.

We are thrilled to host them for a **week beginning July 17**. Please note the upcoming activities and plan to attend. Pastor Noel and Connie will share what life and ministry is like in Cambodia.

July 18: Pastor Noel to teach a **special Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.** Bible study class

July 19: Pastor Noel and Connie to speak at the 12:00 noon **Senior Center Luncheon**

July 19: Congregational potluck in the Auditorium at **6:00 p.m.** for the Ilagan’s! Please come and share your favorite potluck dish and hear Pastor Noel and Connie share with us about life in Cambodia (Folks with last names beginning with **A – E** bring dessert, **F – R** bring a main dish, **S – Z** bring a salad or appetizer.)

July 23: Pastor Noel to preach at the **9:00 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** services and to speak at a **special Adult Forum** at 10:00 a.m.

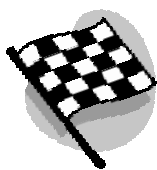
If you would like to contribute to the “Cambodia fund” which will assist the Ilagan’s with their travel expenses, please send a check to the office made out to St. Mark’s with the notation, “Cambodia”. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is offering matching funds for all gifts received.

Renovation Update

Summer is here, the rains are past, and the church building is one very busy construction site! Plant has essentially completed the structural reinforcing and is now focused on reinstalling, repairing and improving the interior and exterior building finishes. This summer, the workers will focus on:

- Repairing the masonry and exterior wood and metal trim
- Repainting exterior trim
- Installing a new slate roof
- Patching and cleaning existing Sanctuary wall surfaces and repainting the historic worship space
- Repairing and reinstalling removed woodwork throughout the building, especially the stairways. The photograph below shows one Plant worker modifying the wood wainscot at the northeast corner of the nave to accommodate the new shotcrete wall that was installed to reinforce the building.
- Installing drywall and painting downstairs rooms
- Repairing and installing doors and hardware
- Installing new cabinetry and countertops in the kitchen, Sacristy and bathrooms

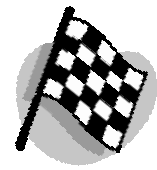
You’re welcome to come and see the latest progress in all these areas at our next construction tour led by Plant Construction on Sunday, July 23rd at 10:00 a.m. Please contact the church office for more information and to add your name to the sign-up list.



Rally Day

Will be here before you know it...

...Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 10th, 2006!**



**St. Mark's
Parish Life &
Congregational
Retreat**

*Mark your calendars for
Saturday, September 16*

when St. Mark's will offer you the opportunity to get together as a community of faith to share, dream, learn and grow. More info to come as we approach September--please watch for the next Evangel edition and the parish announcements!

If you have any ideas you would like to see included for this retreat, please contact Suzanne Smith at suzathome@rcn.com or Pr. Jennert at 415-928-7770 x.226.



—OFF TO RWANDA!—

Bishop David Mullen and a delegation from the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA, including Mary Ritter from St. Mark's, will travel to Rwanda on July 1-11, 2006 to visit our newest companion, the **Lutheran Church of Rwanda** (LCR). Mary and the delegation look forward to meeting and sharing with the people of the LCR.

"Accompaniment" is the new model for companionship and mission in the ELCA. Accompaniment is the **walking together in Jesus Christ of two or more churches** in companionship and in service in God's mission. We ask for God's presence as we begin our walk with the Lutheran Church of Rwanda.

The delegation will take an offering from the Synod, as well as gifts from the congregations. We are also grateful for the prayers and blessings from the congregations.

Off to Rwanda! Mary Ritter

Evangelical Lutheran Worship is Coming!

After many years of planning, and five years of testing preliminary materials, including here at St. Mark's, we are at last getting ready to receive the new Lutheran hymn and worship book. Entitled *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW), we hope to receive copies for our pews at about the same time we move back into our renovated worship space, October 1. How's that for timing? "New" church, new organ, new hymnal!

The book is in final preparation, so while some details are still being finalized, there is quite a bit of solid information available at the Renewing Worship website: www.renewingworship.org. There will be ten musical settings of the liturgy, including those we're most familiar with. There will be around 700 hymns in the book, with the best hymns from LBW, *With One Voice*, as well as several other collections that have appeared since LBW was published in 1978, including quite a few hymns from the non-Western world (Asia and Africa). I was honored to be a part of one of the subcommittees planning the new book (liturgical music), so I am confident that it will represent many different voices of the Lutheran community and serve our churches for many years to come.

We hope members and friends will help us purchase the new hymnals. Including cover engraving, tax, and shipping, each pew copy will cost \$25. You are welcome to donate copies in honor of or in memory of someone. Feel free to **cut out the form below** and **send it to the Church Office with your donation** (please note ELW on check). We will also be making envelopes available for this purpose.

This is an exciting time for our congregation -- refreshed church, new organ -- and the larger Lutheran community. We look forward to your participation in welcoming our newest worship resource!

Rodney Gehrke
Director of Music and Liturgy

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book
Donation Form**

Attached is \$25 to cover the cost per copy of each ELW Hymn and Worship Book. I would like the copy to be donated in honor or memory of

Stroll in the Berkeley Botanical Gardens

On **Wednesday July 12th**, escape the noise and busyness of the city by joining fellow MLT residents and St. Mark's seniors for a stroll in the Berkeley Botanical Gardens. We'll **depart at 11:00 a.m.** and return no later than 2:30 p.m.



Visit the historic City of Sonoma

On **Friday, July 21**, we'll walk through beautiful downtown Sonoma, have lunch at one of the nice and inexpensive restaurants around the quaint town plaza and stop for a wine tasting on the way back! We'll **depart at 10:00 a.m.** and return no later than 3:30 p.m.

San Francisco Zoo

On **Wednesday, August 2nd**, join fellow MLT residents and St. Mark's seniors for a morning at the San Francisco Zoo. Admission to the Zoo is free on this, the first Wednesday of the month! We'll **depart at 9:30 a.m.** and return no later than 1:00 p.m.



Tour of the Russian River

On **Friday, August 11**, we're off to the Russian River! Come for the wine, river, redwoods and coast. Come to relax in the grandness of nature. We will have lunch at one of the restaurants in colorful Guerneville. We'll **depart at 9 a.m.** and return no later than 4:00 p.m.



All trips start from the Urban Life Center entrance lobby, unless noted otherwise.

To reserve your seat please contact the MLT Office on the 3rd floor of the Urban Life Center, or contact **Pastor Jennert** at 415-928-7770 x.226 or **Dean Atkinson** at 415-931-6684.

Tuesdays at 2

will take a summer break during the months of July and August and will

resume on

Tuesday, September 12

(after Rally Sunday).



UPCOMING SENIOR LUNCHEONS

will take place on

Wednesday, July 19

Guest Speaker: Pastor Noel Ilagan

and

Wednesday, August 16

Please sign up early to reserve your seats! Sign-up sheets are available at MLT offices or call Pastor Christian at 415-928-7770 x. 226.

MONTHLY TRANSPORTATION TO CHURCH FOR SENIORS

St. Mark's is offering a ride to church for seniors and those having difficulties using public transportation. This ministry is free of charge and will be offered **the FIRST Sunday of each month starting Sunday, July 2.** The van will pick you up from your home and take you to church so you will be on time for the **11 a.m. worship service** at St. Mark's.



Seating is limited. To sign up for your van ride, please call the church office no later than the **Friday of the week prior to the Sunday** you want to come to worship at 415-928-7770. For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Pr. Christian at 415-928-7770 x 226.



Kids welcome at St. Mark's!

On Sunday mornings, it is a joy to have children, babies, and young people present and active in our worship services. We have created a special "space" for children in the auditorium in which we hope kids will feel extra welcome.

Across from where the choir sits, there will be kid's tables and chairs, coloring books and crayons and simple arts and crafts supplies for children to use quietly throughout worship. We hope this special "kid's space" will encourage families to worship throughout the summer. Kids can sit in chairs their own size and participate in worship while at the same time having a kid friendly space to call their own.



I experienced a similar kid friendly space in another Lutheran church while worshipping with Grace. She was able to color and read and move about quietly while at the same time staying engaged in worship. It worked beautifully. I hope it will for our St. Mark's families. See you in worship this summer!



Pastor Elizabeth



**The Church Office
will be closed
on Monday, July 3rd,
and Tuesday, July 4th,
in observance of
Independence Day.**

Happy 4th of July!

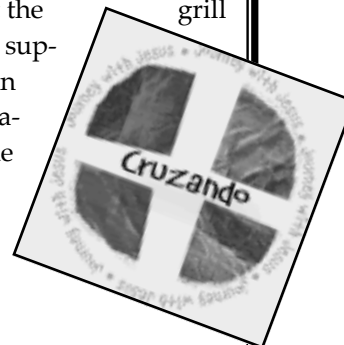
Cruzando – National Youth Gathering Update

We've done it! Thanks to your incredible, generous support and the matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the senior high youth have been able to raise **\$2300** towards their trip to the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas. We had a great time **babysitting**, cooking up a storm for the **pasta feed**, and **making your car sparkle** inside and out! Now we ask for your prayers as we leave on Wednesday, July 5 for **five spirit-filled days** with 20,000 other youth and youth counselors in the Alamodome!

"...we leave on Wednesday, July 5 for five spirit-filled days with 20,000 other youth and youth counselors in the Alamodome!"

Alexa Benson and **Blade Varian** are our youth representatives, and **Marisa Louie** and **Howard Au** will be there to chaperone and also participate in worship and festivities. We'll be bringing the momentum from the youth gathering and the lessons we learn back to share with the youth who were unable to come with us, but who have tirelessly worked to send us to San Antonio. And we look forward to sharing our stories with you after we get back, too!

Special thanks to all of those who lent a hand: the **families** of our youth, **Phil and Tori Krikau** for their fantastic organizing of the car wash, **Dean Atkinson** for his work on the pasta feed and at the grill at the car wash, and the support of Jun Ranches, Ann Dayton, and Pastor Elizabeth for helping us make arrangements for San Antonio.



Steps of Rome
Trattoria

Friday, August 4th

Join other young St. Mark's adults on Friday, August 4th at "Steps of Rome Trattoria" in North Beach. Voted **best Italian Restaurant** in 2004 in the SF Weekly, Steps of Rome offers a friendly atmosphere and the ideal place to discover delicious salmon filets, lamb-chops and other signature dishes like you've never experienced before.

The restaurant is located at 362 Columbus Avenue just north of Broadway in San Francisco. Enjoy an August Night out at "Steps of Rome—a piece of Italy in the heart of the city. For more info visit their website at www.stepsofrome.com. To RSVP reply to your *evite* or contact Pr Christian at 415-928-7770 x.226 or jennert@stmarks-sf.org.

S.M.A.R.T.

St. Mark's
Young Adults

All SMART events are open to members, friends, guests, partners and spouses! If you are not on the SMART group mailing list yet, subscribe at StMarksSMART@yahoo.com. For more info on the SMART events check your *evites* or call Pr. Christian at 415-928-7770 x.226.

S.M.A.R.T.
Film Festival

Mark your calendars for a series of film nights with S.M.A.R.T. this fall. The evenings will begin with a light dinner, followed by the movie. At movies end, we'll enjoy conversation and discussion.

September 28:
"Saved!"



October 26:

"Maria,

Full



of



Grace"

November 17:

"Capote"

Church Council Highlights

At the May and June Church Council meetings, the following activities took place:



- Endorsed the purchase of new hymnals – Evangelical Lutheran Worship – which will replace the Lutheran Book of Worship.
- Heard presentations by John Elford, Mary Ritter, Gail Culp, and Suzanne Smith on the many activities and contributions being made by the Social Ministry, Education and Sunday School Parish Life Committees.
- Discussed financing and retrofit developments, including new security needs and the impact of the retrofit projects on MLT residents and St. Mark's staff.
- Approved a Reciprocal Easement Agreement between MLT and St. Mark's required for the completion of project financing.
- Reviewed proposed changes to rental policies and new Yellow Pages ads for St. Mark's in preparation for the move back into the sanctuary.
- Affirmed support for Pastor Noel and Connie Ilagan's visit to the Bay area in July.

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

Join us in celebrating the recent sacred events in our parish:

April 30

The baptism of
Jackson Albert Burdulis

May 7

The baptism of
Clare Daisy Irvin

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

EVANGEL DEADLINE IS AUGUST 10TH!

Please email articles and notices to dayton@stmarks-sf.org— where you can also send a request to receive the newsletter via email.



**UPCOMING
BREAD FOR THE
WORLD
OFFERING OF
LETTERS**

ON JULY 30, 2006

St. Mark's members will have another opportunity to participate in a Bread for the World "Offering of Letters" on Sunday, July 30th at 10:00am and 12:15pm in the Fireside Room.

This "Offering" will focus on the Hunger-Free Communities Act of 2005. This legislation will help the more than 38 million people in the United States, including approximately 13 million children, who live in households that struggle to put food on the table.

As people of faith and conscience, we can and should remind leaders of their responsibilities to their people, and offer constructive alternatives. We can bring about public policy changes that will end hunger and poverty in our lifetimes. It is not a difficult thing to do, and it doesn't take a lot of time. It just takes the will to act and speak out on behalf of hungry and poor people.

Come see if your representatives are co-sponsors of this legislation and thank them, or urge them to become co-sponsors and ask leadership to move the bill.

See you on July 29th!

**St. Mark's Lutheran and Global Ministries to
SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE
NELSONS IN CAMEROON**

on July 16, 2006

We at St. Mark's, along with Global Health Ministries (GHM), are given the **opportunity to serve** in a very special way – by providing much needed medical supplies and equipment to areas of the world less fortunate than

"The bandages can be boiled and used over and over."

we.

Anne Tinker of Save the Children says, "In most of the developing world, childbirth is a dance with death for both mother and baby." Her

study goes on to say that **many of the child deaths could be prevented** with inexpensive interventions, such as knit caps to keep newborns warm or clean blades to cut umbilical cords.

Knitted bandages are distributed to areas of the world where patients suffer from slow healing open sores and ulcers caused by leprosy, HIV/AIDs, infected insect bites, and burns. A regular dressing is applied to the open sore on a leg, and then the knit bandage is applied to cushion and protect the area from further injury while the ulcer is healing. The bandage can be boiled and used over and over.

Last March, St. Mark's sent 30 Midwife kits, 10 blankets and 23 bandages to Global Health Ministries to be distributed to Lutheran hospitals and missionaries

On Sunday July 16th at 12:15 pm after the worship service, we will pack 100 more Midwife Kits, bandages and blankets which will be mailed to GHM, then **shipped to Ngaoundere Hospital** in Cameroon where our Drs. Tim and Holly Nelson serve.



You, too, can help with this project. Many are knitting bandages and gathering items for the kits, including knitted caps, shirts, towels and washcloths, 36-inch square muslin sheets, soap, razors and ties for the umbilical cords, and gloves. **Donations for shipping costs and supplies** will be gratefully accepted. Checks can be made out to St. Mark's and placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please note on the check: "Midwife Kits".

If you would like to help knit, gather or pack items, contact Mary Ritter at 510-895-0336 or mlrped@aol.com, or Marge Okuley at 415-383-6722 or annnorling@comcast.net.

We can serve the Lord and make a difference in the world!



**HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY**

*Thrivent
Build Dates*

- Jul. 11 (Tuesday)
- Jul. 22 (Saturday)
- Aug. 19 (Saturday)
- Aug. 20 (Sunday)
- Aug. 24 (Thursday)
- Sep. 2 (Saturday)
- Sep. 27 (Wednesday)
- Sep. 30 (Saturday)
- Oct. 5 (Thursday)
- Oct. 7 (Saturday)
- Oct. 25 (Wednesday)

To sign up contact Joleen Caron at joleencaron@hotmail.com or call 415-531-6322.

For more info, go to www.habitat-sf.org See you there!



Thank you

To all who have given so generously of their time, money and prayers to help get this monumental project underway! We can't do it without you!

The Evangel

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

www.stmarks-sf.org

July-August 2006

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DALY CITY, CA
PERMIT NO. 1143

Please contact us if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 415-928-7770

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The Rev. Christian Jennert, Associate Pastor
Rodney P. Gehrke, Director of Music and Liturgy
Jun Ranches, Office Manager
Ann Dayton, Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Garcia, Bookkeeper
Duc Huynh, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor
Carl Storey, Weekend Custodian
Elvira Markov and Gladys Pozo, Nursery Assistants
Gail Culp, Sunday School Coordinator
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St. Mark's is a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop
The Rev. David Mullen, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod
The Rev. Daniel Solberg, Dean, San Francisco Conference



Sister Parish:

Cordero de Dios (Lamb of God) Lutheran Church in Soyapango, El Salvador

